From Joshua Coffin

132

Newbury 30 Nov, 1863.

Dear Garrison: x x x

In the necrology in your last Liberator you have omitted the name of Thomas Shipley. He died many years ago. I hope you will succeed in obtaining the ~~name~~ age, place & date of birth of all the signers. I was born in Newbury on the 12th of October 1792. I was not aware that Nathaniel Coulthard was not living till you informed. Of the 63 signers 49 are as far as I know still among the living: quite a large number considering that it is now 30 years since we met by stealth in Albion Hall ~~Portland Street~~ What changes have taken place since Dec, 1833, & who then supposed that slavery would receive its death-blow by the hands of slavery itself. The first gun fired at Sumter was the signal of the death-knell of slavery. It will die hard, but die it must: although it may take a long time yet before the dying carcase is entirely dead & buried beyond the hope of resurrection. As it is every day revealing its detestable character, it is every day changing the opinions of thousands who heretofore, like the priest & Levite, passed by on the other side & been determined not to trouble themselves with such little things as the "nigger" question.

I wish I could be with you in Phila. this week; but as I cannot be with you in the flesh, I shall be with you in the spirit. I wish you a successful meeting, & hope that ere another decade shall have passed the triumph of anti-slavery principles will be complete, & that the whole continent will join in the jubilee song, having been "regenerated & disenthralled by the irresistible genius of Universal Emancipation," directed as it undoubtedly has been by God's goodness, whose ways are not as our ways, & his thoughts as our thoughts. The counsels of Ahithophel have been turned to foolishness, & like him the leaders of the rebellion are hanging themselves.

Please give my respects to all who may enquire about me, whom I formerly knew in Philadelphia, especially those who signed the declaration in 1833. I wish I could see them all & hear the addresses & shake hands with those whom you may see & hear. But enough. I wish success to you & may you & I live to see the consummation of our wishes.

Yours truly,

Joshua Coffin